The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

WHOLE NO. 1923 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1948 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 38, NO. 7

FACTS ABOUT ERP

The following is a series of excerpts from the weekly publication, "Facts on the Marshall Plan," published by the Committee for the Marshall Plan under the chairmanship of Robert Patterson, former Under Secretary of War.

President William Green represents the American Federation of Labor on the committee.

The Marshall Plan Is a Recovery Program

For the first time in modern history a program exists to put a major area of the world on a coordinated, self-sustaining economic basis. We now have a plan, the European Recovery Program, to enable 16 nations of western Europe—our allies economically and by common heritage—again to become self-supporting. The basis of this program is not relief but full, long-range recovery.

This program recommends that for 15 months, April 1, 1948 to June 30, 1949, the United States government provide $6.8 billion for recovery among the 16 nations participating in the plan.

Six Years of Total War

The war profoundly disrupted Europe's ability to maintain the elementary bases of its existence. One-quarter of Britain's national wealth was destroyed or liquidated. Destruction in France has amounted to 21 billion dollars: one-quarter of its prewar locomotives, two-thirds of its freight cars; 78,000 farm buildings and 66,000 industrial and commercial buildings. Virtually every other country in Europe suffered similar disaster. On top of this came two years of freezing winter, spring floods and summer crop destruction.

Peace Through Cooperation

The Marshall Plan intends that stability among the 16 countries will pave the way for economic and eventual political stability on the entire continent. The first report of the Committee of European Economic Cooperation expressly states that participation in the European Recovery Program is open to all countries prepared to cooperate and to conform to the conditions agreed upon by the European nations and the United States.

One Economic World

America has learned that it cannot isolate itself from economic and social disruption in other parts of the world. We share in its prosperity—or ruin. Our peak level of production is possible only because we have access to goods from every other country. In turn, continued American prosperity depends upon our ability to sell our industrial and agricultural goods outside as well as within the United States. We are called upon today to guarantee that prosperity.

Too Little—Too Late

European recovery depends on capital expansion for coal mines, hydroelectric plants, steel mills, and factories for making industrial equipment. These produce the goods that produce the exports needed to obtain dollars.

Capital expansion is slow—it takes years to rebuild heavy industrial plants. It must be started immediately and with assurance that as long as Europe does its part the United States will not pull out when the program is half under way. This is the critical time for starting Europe's recovery.

The Effects of Reduction

The goods which make up the European Recovery Program have been carefully reviewed. The original estimates of the Committee of European Economic Cooperation have been reduced, either because goods were not available in the quantities desired or because it was thought that some of the goods could not be put to productive use in the time contemplated. The total reduction by the Administration is approximately 1½ billion dollars for the first year.

The focus is on production. This means that even different food quantities are needed than would be suitable strictly for a relief program. For example, people can live on approximately 2,000 calories a day (actually less in much of Europe), but they cannot work on such a diet. The whole production project bogs down if people do not have the necessary strength to work. The same with fuel. A production program requires fuel for factories, railways and mines. A relief program would include fuel only for heating, cooking and lighting. If the recovery program is cut, production falters and may stop, since people have to be kept from freezing even though factories may not be able to run. Similar considerations affect raw materials. Cotton, for instance, is needed not only to clothe people but to permit factories to manufacture textiles to sell abroad in order to purchase more cotton and needed goods.

Labor Extension Service Hearings Open; Schwellenbach Urges Approval of Bill

Washington, D. C.—Hearings on the proposed bill to create a labor extension service opened before the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee with Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach and 3 members of Congress testifying in favor of the measure.

The proposal, introduced by Senators Elbert Thomas of Utah and Wayne L. Morse of Oregon, would set up Federal grants-in-aid permitting state educational institutions to make available to workers information on collective bargaining, production, labor legislation and good labor-management relations. The bill is known as the "Labor Extension Act of 1947."

The American Federation of Labor strongly supports the measure which will give to workers the same opportunity for education now accorded farmers under the agricultural extension service.

Secretary Schwellenbach explained that the bill would set up a labor extension division in the Department of Labor to allocate funds for approved programs of workers' education but that the main responsibility as well as the initiation of the programs would lie at the local level

Defending the idea of setting up such a service for wage earners alone, the Secretary said that business men could avail themselves of many opportunities of education through schools of business administration but that workers' education had lagged.

Mr. Schwellenbach felt that the bill would aid in minimizing industrial disputes because it would throw light on facts of industry and industrial relations which were unavailable now to wage earners' representatives in charge of collective bargaining.

Emphasizing that the bill merely set up standards which Congress wished the states to follow, he said he saw nothing in it which could smack of dictation by the Department of Labor.

Senator Thomas told the committee, of which he is a member, that all wings of the labor movement favored the bill. This fact itself, he said, was enormous progress in view of inter-union strife of the last 12 years.

Representatives Thor C. Tollefson, Republican, of Washington, and Ray J. Madden, Democrat, of Indiana, also testified in favor of the measure.

AVERAGE NEW HOME PRICE 104% ABOVE '39 LEVEL

Washington, D C.—The Commerce Department reported that the selling price of the "average new house" climbed to $9,060 as of last November, more than double the price asked in 1939.

In an earlier report the department predicted that construction costs will be "moderately" higher during 1948.

While the selling price of the average house rose 104 percent over the 1939 level, costs of lumber increased 183 percent during the same period. Lumber prices "are substantially out of line with other commodities," the department report said.

CHING ESTABLISHES NEW MEDIATION OFFICE

Washington, D. C.—Cyrus S. Ching, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, announced the appointment of Mr. John T. Daly to be regional director of a new region comprising Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Offices of the new region will be located in the Widener Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. Ching in establishing the new region said that it would provide for more adequate handling of work in this highly concentrated industrial area, which was formerly included in Region II with headquarters in New York City. Region II will now comprise the state of New York and northern New Jersey.

Mr. Daly has been associated with the U. S. Conciliation Service since 1938 and with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service since its establishment in August 1947. He was born in Springfield, Mass., and has been a resident of the District of Columbia almost continuously since 1930.

AFL MEAT CUTTERS WIN NEW 10-CENT PAY BOOST

Trenton, N. J.—Conditions in this city's meat industry continued their upward progress as Local 56, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America (AFL), successfully concluded negotiations for wage increases with two employers.

Acting under a clause in the current agreement providing for reopening of wage schedules, the union obtained across-the-board increases of 10 cents hourly for skilled employes and 5 cents hourly for unskilled workers.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING
FOLLOW ME and I'll Liberate you from your UNION BOSSES
NAM
LABOR
GAINS
LABOR

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The above cartoon is reproduced through the courtesy of "The Chronicle," Cincinnati's labor newspaper, and is one of a series to be published and distributed to the labor press in mat form, without charge, by the AFL Weekly News Service.

Please advise us of your reactions to these cartoons in order that we may determine whether to order additional similar material on other issues of interest to labor. Address your communications to C. F. Miller, Editor, AFL Weekly News Service, Room 211, AFL Building, Washington 1, D. C.

Cost to U. S. for Union Shop Elections In Building Industry Will Top Million

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board is getting ready to spend from $1,000,000 to $1,500,000 of tax money paid by American workers to conduct a series of union shop elections, the results of which will be absolutely meaningless.

This waste of public funds is the direct result of a provision of the Taft-Hartley law which outlaws the closed shop and requires an election among employes before unions are permitted to ask an employer to grant a union shop.

Under this provision of law, the NLRB is about to embark on the tremendous task of holding some 10,000 elections in the building and construction industry, which has been a closed shop industry by tradition. The most that can be gained from the effort involved and the huge outlay of federal funds, plus the expense to unions and contractors alike, is the maintenance of the status quo. The form of union security merely will be altered from the closed shop to the union shop.

All of this to please the whims of the labor haters who insisted that no union should be allowed to retain a closed shop, no matter how well the practice had worked in the past!

In the building trades the cost of conducting the elections is expected to exceed the $.45-per-ballot cost under the Wagner Act. Why this is so may be seen from the announced plans of the NLRB for the first election to be held in the industry, among road builders in western Pennsylvania.

These road-building contractors have bargained as a group. They will be required to check their payrolls and compile an employment history of each employe for the past year at least. Unions will probably check these lists.

The general counsel's office of the NLRB then will analyze the lists and histories. John Smith may have worked for two or more contractors in the year. He can only be counted once. If he has worked only a month or two he may be eliminated. Government clerks then will communicate with each person on the lists. If John Smith has worked as a teamster but has opened a grocery store and does not intend to go back to hauling, he will not be eligible for a ballot.

This is immportant because a union shop is allowed only if it is supported by a majority of the eligible voters. A mere majority of the votes cast is not enough Nonvoters are counted against the union shop.

Suppose 10,000 persons are eligible to vote. If the total vote is 4,999 and is unanimous for the union shop, that would not be enough to win. Hence the unions particularly are desirous of limiting the eligibles to bona fide tradesmen.

The pilot election will be relatively simple because it will involve only 3 crafts, the teamsters, operating engineers, and 1 other. In many cases there will be 15 to 20 crafts. Separate elections will be conducted for each craft in each area. There are 600 to 700 bargaining areas.

In metropolitan areas the polling will be concentrated, of course. On the other hand, bargaining in Kansas is conducted on a state-wide basis but it will be impracticable to set up a single, central polling place. NLRB employes will have to go into many cities and towns.

It is not expected the homebuilding situation will be materially affected. In many cities houses are constructed by small contractors with nonunion labor. These contractors, who have no history of bargaining with unions, will not be eligible to join the employer bargaining unit. Therefore their employes will not be eligible to participate and will not be affected.

Personal Income $197 Billion In 1947; Farm Income Pushed Up December Rate

Washington, D. C.—The Commerce Department reported that personal income during 1947 rose to a record high of $197,000,000,000, about $20,000,000,000 more than the level recorded for 1946.

Personal income in December reached an annual rate of $209,000,000,000, the department said.

Farm income, according to the department, was chiefly responsible for the December increase of $5,500,000,000 over the November level. The present slump in the commodity market was expected, therefore, to exert downward pressure on personal income level for the early part of 1948, the department said.

Personal income includes: Wage and salary receipts, which accounted for $120,700,000,000 of the 1947 total, plus net income of business owners and partnerships, dividends by landlords and veterans' benefits.

The department noted that personal income rose slowly during the first part of 1947, but was sharply accelerated during the latter months when "second round" wage increases were reflected in payroll totals, terminal leave bonds were cashed and proprietors' income rose.

Private wage and salary disbursements increased by $15,000,000,000 over 1946 to a total of $105,000,000,000. Government payrolls declined from the 1946 total as a result of a smaller number of military personnel.

A decline in federal civilian payrolls was more than offset by increased payrolls of state and local governmental units.

Farm proprietors' income, which was $15,200,000,000 in 1946, rose to $17,000,000,000, and dividend payments exceeded the 1929 level for the first time, rising to $6,800,000,000.

POLITICAL ACTION SEEN ONLY WAY TO BEAT FOES

Chicago.—Patrick F. Sullivan, president of the Chicago Building Trades Council urged caution upon labor in its fight against the Taft-Hartley law. He said in an article in the current Chicago Building Trades Manual:

"Caution must be practiced to the nth degree by our local and state members.

"Wildcat strikes of protest are not the answer and should not be tolerated. We must remember that we are Americans living in a free country, and we should take serious account of our problems and seek the proper avenue to rectify the harm that has been done.

"We are intelligent enough to know that this law will have to be changed by political action rather than by the pressure of a general strike."

COURT ORDERS DEATH OF COMPANY GARMENT UNION

Kansas City.—The Donnelly Garment Company was ordered by the Circuit Court of Appeals to disestablish a company union and to refund dues collected since 1937.

Effect of the court decision in the case, which originated in 1938, will be to force the refund of $100,000 in dues, it was estimated by Clif Langsdale, attorney for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

The case arose when the ILGWU charged the independent union was dominated by the company in violation of the Wagner Act. The National Labor Relations Board, in 1940, directed the company to disestablish all relations with the union and to reimburse dues deducted from the employes' pay.

High Court Upholds Rent Law; Senate Group Votes Extension

Committee Favors Rent Control to April '49 In Modified Form

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, upheld the power of the Federal government to continue rent control.

The court decided that termination of hostilities did not necessarily end the war powers under which Congress enacted the control measure.

Meanwhile, the Senate Banking and Currency Committee voted to continue rent controls for 14 months in a modified form and a House Committee recommended the extension of the present law for 31 days beyond February 19, pending final action by Congress.

The Supreme Court decision reversed an opinion of a lower court judge that Federal controls could not be continued beyond December 31, 1946, the date declared by President Truman as marking the end of hostilities.

Associate Justice William O. Douglas delivered the opinion for the court which said in part:

"The legislative history of the present (Rent Control) act makes abundantly clear that there has not yet been eliminated the deficit in housing which in considerable measure was caused by the heavy demobilization of veterans and by the cessation or reduction in residential construction during the period of hostilities due to the allocation of building materials to military projects.

"Since the war effort contributed heavily to that deficit, Congress has the power even after the cessation of hostilities to act to control the forces that a short supply of the needed article created. We conclude that the war power sustains this legislation.

"We recognize the force of the argument that the effects of war under modern conditions may be felt in the economy for years and years, and that if the war power can be used in days of peace to treat all the wounds which war inflicts on our society, it may not only swallow up all other powers of Congress but largely obliterate the Ninth and Tenth Amendments as well. There are no such implications in today's decision."

The Senate committee, in approving the new rent bill, wrote into it a program which included the following proposals:

Continuation of rent controls through April 30, 1949.

Extension through Dec. 31, 1949, of the present authority for rent increases up to 15 percent, when voluntary agreements were reached between tenant and landlord. However, there could be no pyramiding of new 15 percent rises on existing ones.

Virtual guarantees to landlords that they would not have to rent at rates which would cause losses, rather than profits or a "breaking even."

A decontrolling of rents on housing accommodations which were under lease to an individual or single family of $225 or more a month 60 days before enactment of the measure.

Decontrolling also of rents on rooms in private houses, a provision concededly of especial significance in college areas.

Social Security Administration Proposes Comprehensive 'All-Risk' Insurance Plan

Washington, D. C.—In its annual report to Congress, the Social Security Administration urged the enactment of a comprehensive "all-risk" workers insurance program.

Included in the proposals made by the SSA were the doubling of minimum retirement payments and a 1 percent tax on the first $4,800 of wages instead of the present system of levying the tax on only the first $3,000 of income.

The SSA report suggested that insurance be provided for wage loss in periods of disability, both temporary and permanent, and for the costs of medical care. This would include payments to doctors and hospitals, with free choice of doctor and hospital.

It further proposed coverage of all gainful workers, including farm and domestic workers, public employes, members of the armed forces, self-employed, and workers in nonprofit organizations. None are presently included in the old-age and survivors' insurance program.

Benefit amounts would be increased, particularly to low-paid workers, and women should be able to qualify for benefits at 60 years of age rather than the present 65, the report said.

In the field of unemployment benefits, the recommendation was for standardization among states. The figures proposed were a minimum of $25 a week for at least 26 weeks' duration.

Cash benefits, the report urged, should be paid to insured workers and their dependents for both temporary (less than six months) and extended disability. At present the only such general payments are under the workmen's compensation laws, covering only accidents or diseases resulting from the victim's injury while on the job.

The comprehensive system which the report recommended "would have the simplicity and economy available through the use of a single set of records, a single contribution and a single set of local officers to administer all types of cash benefits," Altmeyer wrote.

The report referred to the scale of benefits under the old-age and survivors insurance program as "inadequate, even as compared with what was intended when it was adopted in 1939" because, among other things, the cost of living had risen 60 percent since the benefit formula now in use was written into the Social Security Act.

January Prices Hit New Peak Prior to Commodities' Slump

Washington, D. C.—Prices will have to drop considerably more than they have in the past two weeks to counteract the rapid rise in the retail prices of goods and services which occurred in 1947.

The skyward flight of cost-of-living items continued into January and, at the middle of the month, prices paid by moderate-income families for goods and services reached a new peak, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

According to preliminary estimates, the BLS consumers' price index, reflecting a 1 percent price increase for the preceding month, soared to a level 169 percent of the 1935-39 average. Prices of commodities and services making up the index were 27 percent above June 1946, 71 percent higher than August 1939, and 13 percent over the June 1920 peak.

The current flurry of price cuts on many retail food items is not included in this BLS report. The effects of the drop in the nation's commodity prices will be reflected in the BLS survey for mid-February and in a special report on food prices to be released shortly.

Between mid-December and mid-January price advances were recorded for all major groups of items. Food prices rose about 1½ percent, on the average, to bring the food index to about 210 percent of the 1935-39 base period. Higher prices for meats, dairy products, cereal and bakery products, and fresh fruits and vegetables more than offset a sharp seasonal decline in prices of eggs, and fractional decreases in canned foods and fats and oils.

Preliminary estimates show that prices of fuels and miscellaneous goods and services increased more than 1 percent, while apparel, housefurnishings and rents rose fractionally.

Labor Secretary Supports Equal Pay Act; Hits Wage Inequities As Danger to Peace

Washington, D. C.—Wage discrimination and inequities based upon sex lead to general labor unrest, declared Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach urging enactment of the "Women's Equal Pay Act of 1947."

In testimony before a House committee, Mr. Schwellenbach said the legislation is necessary for the welfare of the wage earners of the country and the general economic well-being of the nation.

The Secretary said that the practice of paying women unequal pay for equal work tends to depress the wages of all employes and in consequence to reduce the standard of living of all workers and the families dependent upon them. He said that sex differentials in wage rates are a serious brake upon the best use of our labor resources and to that extent inhibit full production.

Mr. Schwellenbach pointed out that the existence of wage discrimination on the basis of sex has an equally adverse effect on production in that women workers, who are performing competently on a job, cannot help but be resentful when they know that other workers are paid a higher rate for the same or comparable work.

In a summary, the Secretary remarked that we have already gone some distance toward remedying this long-standing injustice to women—of unequal pay for comparable work, but there is urgent need for further action. He said that millions of women workers are not protected against this gross inequity either by state laws or by union contracts. Hundreds of fair employers who are paying "the rate for the job" regardless of sex must still compete with those who are willing to take advantage of the weaker bargaining position of women. The Secretary added that the gains that have been made through voluntary action and through War Labor Board influence during the war years can be retained on a lasting basis only by establishing equal pay for equal work by law, a law which is clearly in the national interest.

"Laying aside all the sound economic reasons for establishing equal pay for women," the Secretary said, "I think this bill should become law because it is a matter of simple justice.

"If a woman does the same job or a job requiring comparable skill she ought to be paid the same rate as a man. There is no sex differential in the food she buys or the rent she pays. There should be none in her pay envelope. I still believe in the truth of the old adage and I commend it to this committee that 'the laborer is worthy of his hire.'"

NEW LABOR-MANAGEMENT SCHOOL SET UP IN WEST

San Francisco.—A new outlet for the discussion of methods leading to industrial peace has been provided by the University of San Francisco, which will open its Labor-Management School with evening classes commencing Tuesday, March 2, and continuing 3 times weekly to May 13.

The school has set up 5 courses, covering the role of the union in the community, wage-profit-price relations, public speaking and parliamentary procedure, and the moral principles of industrial peace.

AFL PRINTERS SCORE NEW PAY GAIN; NO CONTRACT

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Members of the AFL's Typographical Union here won a $10 weekly raise without signing any contract from publishers of 3 daily newspapers.

The agreement is retroactive to January 1 and gives printers working day hours $90 a week while night workers receive $94. The work week is 37½ hours.

The papers and Pittsburgh Local No. 7, International Typographical Union, had been negotiating for three months.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO MEET IN MILWAUKEE

Washington, D. C.—The AFL Executive Council will hold its annual Spring meeting in Milwaukee, Wis., it was decided at the last meeting of the council held in Miami.

The session, which will commence on May 10, will run simultaneously with the Union-Industries Show scheduled to open in Milwaukee on May 12 under the auspices of the AFL's Union Label Trades Department.

The council meeting and the union exposition will highlight the observance of Union Label Week proclaimed by the 66th annual AFL convention as a period during which special efforts will be made to acquaint the public with AFL activities leading to the promotion of good labor-management-consumer relations.

AFL LONGSHOREMEN WIN RECOGNITION AS AGENT

New York City.—Local 333 of the United Marine division of the AFL's International Longshoremen's Association won recognition from an employer as bargaining agent for licensed employes as well as unlicensed workers on the company's harbor oil craft.

The agreement reached with the Reinauer Transportation Co.'s, Inc., of Staten Island, also gave the workers a pay rise of 10 cents an hour, retroactive to January 1. Pay for crewmen heretofore ranged from $7.63 to $10.32 a day.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

LABOR'S GOAL!
To Repeal
Taft-Hartley Law

WILLIAM GREEN, President · WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1948 · GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

High Prices, Buyer Resistance Seen Cause of Job Loss In Dress Industry

New York City.—The virtual stalling of production in the lower priced lines of women's dresses has thrown thousands of workers out of their jobs and reduced others to part-time employment, according to spokesmen for both unions and management.

Normally, the dress output should be at its peak now, but sky-high fabric prices, growing buyer resistance, and poor weather have brought on a slump.

A survey indicated that the situation got better as the price of the dresses went up. In the higher priced dress field, a relatively slight reduction in employment was reported. Manufacturers of medium priced garments said their employment totals were "well below normal for this time of year," but that the effects of the slump had not been nearly so drastic as in the popular priced field.

Julius Hochman, manager of the Dress Joint Board of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL, said the over-all condition of the industry, the city's largest, was "not good," with the lower-priced lines particularly hard hit. He said several thousand workers were without jobs and thousands of others were working part-time.

Asserting that the "unconscionable" price of fabrics was the chief factor in holding back production, the leader of 80,000 organized dressmakers urged that the federal government undertake an investigation into the situation without delay.

On the management side, Louis Rubin, director of the Popular-Priced Dress Manufacturers Group, cited the inability of manufacturers to develop a mass market for their products. He said:

"The mass consumer no longer is able to spend his money as freely as he did a year or two ago. Women are becoming more selective. They want a good garment and if they cannot find one within their price range they make their old dresses do. I hope costs will come down so we can cater to the millions of American women, but I am afraid things will have to get very much worse before there is any reduction in fabric prices."

The high cost of textiles was also emphasized by I. A. Agree, director of the National Dress Manufacturers Association, a jobbers' group with members in all price ranges.

AFL Urges Congress to Enact Labor Extension Service Bill

Washington, D. C.—Frank P. Fenton, international representative for the AFL, urged enactment of the proposed labor extension service bill as a means of supplying labor with the "instrumentalities of conference and negotiation" to further its cooperation with management.

Testifying before a Senate committee, Mr. Fenton reiterated the AFL's stand in favor of the labor educational measure and stressed the part the federation has always played in support of education.

The bill proposes that a labor extension service be created within the Department of Labor to offer educational services and materials to workers, through state educational institutions. In practice it would operate along the lines of the agricultural extension service which has been supplying similar services to farmers for many years.

Maintaining that education is the sharpest tool of democracy, Fenton called upon Congress to accord workers the same privilege it has granted farmers. He said:

"Workers feel that the government has not provided the same avenues for education of workers as it has for farmers or businessmen. The noted extension service of the Department of Agriculture is a case in point. The AFL is gratified that farmers have this fine service. We want that service to continue, but we also want the workers to have the same advantage. Senate Bill S. 1390 will rectify the inequality between the workers on the farms and the workers in our mills and shops.

"It is obvious that such a provision for workers will greatly advance the growing movement of adult education. Nearly everyone is now aware that formal education is only the beginning of education. Education must be a continuous and continuing process, from the cradle to the grave, if we are to have an intelligent and responsive citizenship. The very fact that we have a society of swift, technological changes makes a widespread system of adult education imperative. This bill, S. 1390, will fill a gap in th adult education process."

NLRB Votes for Inclusion of Factory Inspectors In Job Bargaining Unit

Washington, D. C.—In a split decision, the National Labor Relations Board voted 3 to 2 to include factory inspectors in the same unit with production and maintenance employes.

This was the board's first ruling on the status of inspectors under the Taft-Hartley Law. Apparently it will not be the last, since the majority conceded that in certain cases inspectors might qualify as supervisors or professional employes.

Majority members in the case were Chairman Paul M. Herzog, John M. Houston and Abe Murdock. Dissents were filed by James J. Reynolds, Jr., and J. Copeland Gray.

The question came before the board on a petition by the Independent Metal Workers Union for an election in the Evanston, Ill., plant of Clayton Mark & Co., manufacturers of steel tubing and well supplies. About 350 employes will be eligible to vote in the election ordered by the board.

The inspectors have authority to pass or reject materials and to shut down a machine which is turning out defective products. Materials rejected must be rerun by production workers at a lower pay rate. The inspectors work under separate supervision.

The board majority said that the legislative history of the law showed that Congress originally gave specific consideration to the status of inspectors. As enacted, the law directed the board to take particular action in representation cases with respect to three types of persons only: supervisors, professional employes and plant guards.

BUILDING TRADES SHOW APPRENTICESHIP GAIN

Washington, D. C.—The number of apprentices in the construction industry at the beginning of the year increased to 114,363, a new record, the Apprentice-Training Service reported.

This total, which reflects a gain of 2,151 over December does not include complete coverage, the ATS said.

The electrical trades, which showed a slight decline on December 1 from November 1 total, more than made up for that loss to set a new mark of 17,368 on January 1. A breakdown of the number of apprentices employed in the other construction crafts on January 1 follows: Woodworking trades, 41,795; pipe trades, 17,227; trowel trades, 15,756; painting trades, 9,105; sheet metal trades, 8,254; other building trades, 4,858.

KOSHER SLAUGHTERERS WIN GUARANTEED PAY

Philadelphia.—Two new national records have been set in successful wage-raise negotiations by the schochtim's (Kosher butchers) union with the Philadelphia meat industry.

A 50 percent increase from $5,200 a year to the $7,800 a year set the highest industrial wage in the country.

Since the $7,800 is not on an "if-work" basis but is a guaranteed annual wage, it also is the highest guaranteed, annual industrial wage in the country.

The record figures were negotiated with the employers by Leon B. Schachter, representing the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen (AFL), Rabbi Aaron Glatzer, president of Local 464, and Rabbi David Pichenick, secretary.

AFL SWEEPS ELECTIONS IN NEW ENGLAND AREAS

Boston.—New victories by the AFL in collective bargaining and union shop elections were reported here.

In 3 elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board to determine whether employes wanted a union shop in their plants, only 14 workers voted against the security measure out of 1,083 eligible voters. In favor of the union shop were 976 workers, an overwhelmingly large majority.

Companies involved in the elections were the LePage Glue Company in Gloucester, the Westfield Bicycle Company of Westfield, and the St. Albans Grain Company, St. Albans, Vermont.

In Nashua, N. H., employes of the White Mountain Freezer Company voted 38 to 15 in favor of an AFL union as their collective bargaining agent.

WORKERS MUST DRAW ON SAVINGS, SAYS WASHBURN

Milwaukee, Wis.—Lester Washburn, president of the AFL's United Automobile Workers warned the fact that workers are forced by inflation to use their savings to meet day-by-day expenses is the "most ominous sign in the record."

"The average worker today cannot support his family on his weekly earnings, but must draw on his reserves or borrow money," Washburn declared in the union's official journal.

Consumer spending in 1947, he said, quoting from the President's recent State of the Union message to Congress, exceeded by $3,500,000 the increase in incomes. At the same time consumer credit reached a new peak of $13,300,000,000, he said.

Steel Industry's Price Hike Adds Fuel To Inflation Fire

Washington, D. C.—Action by the nation's steel companies in boosting prices by $5 a ton is another sure step on the altogether too familiar "boom and bust" highway.

Coming on the heels of fabulous profit reports for operations in 1947, the new price rise can be interpreted only as another grab for more and more earnings at the expense of the American consumer.

The boost in prices will be reflected eventually in higher costs to the public for almost everything, at a time when inflation had reduced purchasing power to the critical level as evidenced by the adjustment in the commodity markets and by increased buyer resistance.

The basic industry of the nation has thrown the public welfare to the winds in the face of repeated warnings of President Truman on the dire necessity for curbing the inflationary price spiral.

The effect of the steel price hike will be to add many millions of dollars to the nation's steel bill immediately and will in all probability be reflected soon in higher prices for a wide range of industrial items from automobiles to bobby pins.

Relatively small price reductions as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' index of wholesale prices will be countered in subsequent reports when the effect of the steel increase is fully felt by steel fabricators. While the BLS survey showed a sharp break in wholesale prices, the index for such commodities remained at a level 11.6 percent above the corresponding period of a year ago. It is a sure bet that the steel price boost will push this index still higher within a few weeks.

In upping steel prices the industry acted simultaneously and similarly. None of the big steel producers resisted the proposed advance, a fact which may be of special interest and significance to the Justice Department's anti-trust division.

Steel fabricators who use the semi-finished products of the big producers boosted their prices on finished goods to pass on their increase in raw materials costs.

It looks as though the cycle of higher prices has started again. American workers, already plagued with the problem of stretching the dollar, will now be faced with the alternative of striving to obtain further wage boosts or be forced out of the buying market.

Old Man Winter Cuts Building Volume; But 50,000 Units Started Is Above Jan. '47

Washington, D. C.—Despite the record-breaking activities of Old Man Winter, construction was begun on 50,000 new residential dwelling units in January, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

While this total was 12,000 units below the figure for December, the number of new homes started exceeded the number reported for January 1947 by almost 10,000.

The BLS blamed the severe winter weather reported in many sections of the nation for the fact that actual new starts in January fell almost 10 percent below the bureau's prediction for housing activity in that period.

Early indications from local building-permit reports are that home-building activity was most seriously affected in the northern sections of the country, where declines ranged from a 25-percent drop for the East North Central States to a 50 percent drop for the New England States.

In contrast, a January spurt in residential construction activity in the West South Central Region, comprising Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, resulted in a 25 percent gain over December for this area. An upturn in housing activity was registered for the Mountain States also, with a reported increase of 15 percent in the number of new nonfarm dwelling units for which permits were issued in January.

Among the larger cities reporting, the number of units for which permits were issued decreased markedly from the December total in Oakland, Calif.; Chicago, Ill.; Evansville and Fort Wayne, Ind.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Elizabeth, N. J.; Columbus, Ohio; Philadelphia, Pa.; and Richmond, Va. Substantial increases were reported for Phoenix, Ariz.; Washington, D. C.; Miami, Fla.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Baltimore, Md.; and Austin, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio, Texas.

Only Full-Time Ex-GI Students Eligible To Receive Increased Living Grants

Washington, D. C.—Increased allowances for veterans in school, authorized in a bill recently signed by the President, will be granted only to full-time students, the Veterans Administration announced.

Part-time students, on-the-job trainees, and certain others are not entitled to the increased allowances, the VA said.

The new subsistence payments are $75 a month for a veteran without dependents, $105 with one dependent, and $120 with more than one dependent.

The rates become effective April 1, and will be paid for the first time in checks mailed on or after May 1.

The VA attorneys said the old rates of $65 a month for veterans without dependents remain in effect for:

1. Part-time institutional training.
2. Institutional on-the-farm training.
3. Apprenticeship or other on-the-job training (for which veterans receive compensation for their labor).
4. Combination or cooperative training, in which students attend school part-time and are employed part-time usually in a related field.
5. Internship and residency training.
6. Graduate training under a fellowship requiring a reduced credit course-load because of services given under provisions of the fellowship.

The agency said that eligible veterans now in school need not apply for the increased allowances. They are automatic except in the case of veterans entitled to the top rate, $120.

Local Union Cooperates With Employer In Promoting Quality In Production

Chicago.—Members of Local 241 of the AFL's Chemical Workers Union are cooperating with an employer here in setting up "quality production committees" of union and management representatives.

Samuel Laderman, president of the local, reported that the committees had been established in all shops of the company "for the promotion of first-class merchandise."

The union head explained that the union members had voted to send thousands of letters to AFL organizations throughout the country "recommending our 100 percent union high quality products to them."

"We are happy to report," Laderman said, "that our program of cooperation in the matter of quality merchandise has resulted in full employment, including overtime, and the company has begun to hire new workers. Further, the company has granted its workers wage increases of 10 cents an hour."

Included also in the agreement Laderman explained, is a bonus plan for all departments which has averaged 15 cents an hour for employes in some departments previously; a minimum hiring rate for new employes of 95 cents an hour, and a union health and welfare fund to which the company pays $1 per worker per week. This fund provides a $500 death benefit policy for each worker, and 91 days annual hospitalization for each employe who is ill or injured.

YOUTH GROUPS ASSIST CHILDREN'S FUND DRIVE

New York City.—Organizations representing 10,000,000 young people in the United States are assisting the "crusade for children" to help save 230,000,000 children overseas from starvation, it was announced by Lee Marshall, national chairman of American Overseas Aid-United Nations Appeal for Children.

The crusade, according to Mr. Marshall, is supported by more than a score of well-known youth organizations. The group will help in the campaign to seek $60,000,000 for overseas relief. Largest beneficiary of the drive will be the International Children's Emergency Fund of the United Nations. AFL President Green has endorsed the drive.

Among the youth organizations in the crusade are the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the United States, Camp Fire Girls, Future Farmers of America, and the Boys Clubs of America.

CANADA TO GET DUTCH FARMERS AND GARDENERS

The Hague, Netherlands—Arrangements are being made for 10,000 Dutch farmers and gardeners to settle in Canada next year. The mass movement has been given the permission of the Canadian government.

AFL Leaders Named to Confer On ERP at London Conference

Participation Depends On Postponement of March 8th Date

Washington, D. C.—Five top officials of the American Federation of Labor were named delegates to the forthcoming international labor conference in London on the European Recovery Program, provided that the conference is held after March 29.

The delegates, appointed at a meeting of the AFL's International Labor Relations Department, include President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, and Executive Council Members Matthew Woll, David Dubinsky and George Harrison.

The department found that if the conference is held on March 8 and 9, as announced in London, no AFL delegates would be able to attend on such short notice.

Since the AFL originated the idea for such a conference in order to mobilize labor support for the Marshall Plan throughout the 16 cooperating nations, it was considered unfortunate that the British Trades Union Congress had set a date for the meeting prematurely and without consultation.

Other actions taken by the AFL's International Labor Relations Department follow:

1. Serafino Romauldi was named as the full-time Latin-American Representative of the American Federation of Labor with headquarters in the AFL building here. He will also discharge his duties as secretary of Inter-American Relations for the newly-formed Inter-American Confederation of Labor from the same office.

2. The department appropriated $10,000 for the purchase of 100 typewriters which will be sent to the Force Ouvriere, the non-Communist group which recently broke away from the French Confederation of Labor, for official use. The AFL had been informed that this trade union movement was handicapped by a lack of office equipment.

3. Irving Brown, the AFL's European Representative, was named to represent the American Federation of Labor at the forthcoming convention of the Greek Federation of Labor.

4. Frank Fenton, the AFL's International Representative, who is leaving for Europe Feb. 24 to attend a meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization at Geneva March 9 was designated to represent the AFL at the conference to be held by the U. N. Social and Economic Council March 23 on freedom of information.

Green Urges European Recovery Plan; Reiterates Importance of Labor's Role

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green urged approval of the program for the rehabilitation of Europe's economy "as the first step in defending democracy."

In testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Green renewed the AFL's pledged support to the European Recovery Program, otherwise known as the Marshall Plan, and reemphasized the importance of granting labor a major share in its administration and operation. He said:

"I cannot emphasize too strongly that American labor can perform a basic and distinguished service in this program. We are the only national group that can communicate directly, forcefully and convincingly to a parallel group in all those 16 countries to secure the cooperation of workers essential to the success of the program.

"The time has come when to fail to include representatives of free trade unions in a big international undertaking essential to world security, endangers not only the program but the ultimate goals of world peace and order which the program promotes.

"We can have world peace and order only through agreements and understanding between national groups in addition to treaties and international machinery for dealing with misunderstanding and conflicts of interests."

Mr. Green warned that Soviet Russia's expansionist policy has brought Europe face to face with a "despotism which threatens to exterminate its institutions and its religion in which its ideals and standards are rooted," and supported the strengthening of the free trade unions as a means of combatting Russia's influence.

He reviewed the record of the American Federation of Labor in its constant battle against the spread of the communist ideology everywhere. At home and abroad, he declared, AFL resources have been used to ferret out and expose communist agents seeking to infiltrate unions and destroy them from within or deliver them to the domination of the Communist Party.

Stating that the 1947 convention of the AFL gave its unanimous approval to the Marshall Plan as a program in the interests of all wage earners, Mr. Green declared:

"The American Federation of Labor understands that the European Recovery Program requires sacrifices and self-discipline on the part of United States citizens. We stand ready to make these sacrifices and to assume new responsibilities. We cannot shut our eyes to the fear and hunger that are the daily portion of those human beings who are close to Soviet aggression. We want to give to the people of Europe aid that will sustain their courage and their faith in democracy."

Taft's Stand on ERP Shows Normal, Illogical Approach

New York City.—Senator Taft's objections to the European Recovery Plan show the same callous disregard for human and economic needs as do his utterances on domestic problems.

This was brought out ably by an analysis of the Senator's views on the recovery proposal prepared by the Committee for the Marshall Plan with headquarters here.

In answer to the people of Europe who need bread and work, Mr. Taft said people "don't completely collapse." "They go on living anyway," he said.

Apparently willing to throw Europe a few scraps now and then from our bountiful supplies, the Senator completely disregards the real purpose of the plan which is to make special efforts to supply Europe with what she needs to get on her own feet economically. He said:

"We should determine from time to time the surpluses which may be of real value to these people."

This is an admirable thought, the committee analysis points out, but reliance on that method of allocation won't work. To illustrate Taft's illogical approach to the problem, the committee says:

"Europe needs timber. Say we have it in surplus. So we export timber. Europe also needs coal mining machinery but there is a tightness in supply in this country. We send Europe timber with which to cut needed pit props for mines but we send them no equipment to get out the coal. This is hardly logical."

Senator Taft's real dilemma, the committee says, is to reconcile somehow the European Recovery Program with his previous positions on inflation and tax reduction. He has found a simple solution: if European recovery threatens either of these, cut out recovery. "The best way to stop the spiral of inflation and relieve the condition of the lower income tax workers is to give a general tax reduction instead of another wage increase. Such a reduction would be impossible if we accept the full figures of the Marshall Plan."

It is difficult to understand why Senator Taft doesn't simply say that he is opposed to the Marshall Plan not because it won't do the job but only because it doesn't jibe with the stand he has made on other matters. Once this is made clear then all of Taft's cries about ERP being "unrealistic," "careless," "lavish," become less persuasive.

Union Poll Favors Truman Tax Plan; Supports Democrats, Repudiates Taft

Milwaukee.—Lester Washburn, president of the AFL's United Automobile Workers, made known the results of the first 1948 quarterly poll of the union's membership which showed Truman, his tax reduction plan, and the Democratic party favored overwhelmingly.

UAW-AFL members across the country were asked: In the matter of federal income tax reduction which do you favor, the Truman plan of a flat $40 reduction for everyone or the Knutson plan of a proportionate reduction based on a percentage of gross income? Eighty-six percent of those voting wanted the Truman plan.

The Democratic Party was a runaway for labor's support in 1948, the Democrats favored by 93 percent, and the Republicans by only 4 percent. No more than 3 percent favored the establishment of a third party.

Truman is still the UAW-AFL's most popular candidate for the next president of the United States. To the question: As things now stand, whom do you favor for the next president of the United States? Truman was given first choice by 79 percent of those voting. The next highest possible candidate was General Eisenhower with 6 percent. Then came Dewey, surprisingly enough, with 4 percent. Wallace, MacArthur and Stassen all tied, each getting but 2 percent. Warren of California received a vote of 1 percent. No one voted for Taft.

UAW-AFL members reflected the fact that patience is running out with Russia. Thirty-six percent said that the U. S. should fight Russia if necessary to maintain our world policy. Sixty-four percent however felt that the U. S. should refer all its world policy disputes by the United Nations for settlement and that the U. S. should abide by United Nations decision in the matter.

VETERANS FILE PROTESTS AT CHISELING BUILDERS

Washington, D. C.—Thousands of ex-GI's have filed complaints asserting that they have been cheated in one way or another on homes purchased under the GI loan plan.

The Department of Justice said reports of chiseling by builders have come in from nearly every part of the country, the largest number being from Los Angeles, Baltimore, New York, New Orleans, Miami, Dallas and Chicago.

Morris Verner, compliance officer for Tighe E. Woods, housing expediter, said 26,000 former soldiers have appealed to his division alone. He said some contractors left a full room out of the houses they built. One man, he said, cut the width of each house in a row by one foot so he could get more houses in a block.

Major complaints, he said, were that the charge for the home exceeded the limit set by the Federal Housing Authority and that the houses did not follow the agreed specifications. Where willful violations of the rules are turned up, they will be handed to United States District Attorneys for action. No indictments have been asked so far, a Justice Department official said.

1,000 UNIONISTS ATTEND PADWAY MEMORIAL DINNER

Milwaukee, Wis.—Over 1,000 unionists and friends paid tribute to attorneys Joseph A. Padway and I. E. Goldberg at a memorial dinner held here.

Lewis G. Hines, representing AFL President William Green, who was unable to attend, delivered a brief eulogy of the late Mr. Padway, the well-liked former general counsel for the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Padway and Mr. Goldberg, his nephew and law partner, died within a few months of each other last year.

Proceeds of the dinner will be used to establish a memorial scholarship at Marquette University.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE SPONSORS NOVEL PROJECT

Philadelphia.—A conference on the guaranteed annual wage was held here as part of the regular educational program of the Interne-in Industry project sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee.

The project gives young men and women an opportunity to study industrial relations at first hand by taking jobs in local industries while living together cooperatively. The educational program includes lectures and discussions led by labor, industrial, civic, educational, and religious leaders. In addition, the internes take field trips and attend union meetings and industrial relations conferences.

The Right to
VOTE
Is Your
Priceless
Heritage
Don't Fail to Use It